



DAVID SANDERS, Ph.D.
Director

County of Los Angeles DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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June 6, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

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From: David Sanders, Ph.D.
Director

REPORT FROM AUDITOR-CONTROLLER ON START PROGRAM

Attached please find a report to me from the Auditor-Controller regarding his findings from a Fraud Hotline investigation.

In my judgment, three major issues of concern are raised by this request.

1. Fraudulent time reporting.
2. Lack of clear program purpose and on-going performance outcome measurement and evaluation.
3. Adequate and effective supervision.

Fraudulent Time Reporting

I have directed immediate disciplinary action calling for the termination of the named employees who the investigation identified engaging in fraudulent time reporting.

Program, Purpose, Design and Goals

Weeks prior to the receipt of this report, a START Program Task Force was formed by my Chief Deputy to re-examine and redefine the program's purpose, design and goals. New outcome measures will be identified and the program's performance will be rigorously monitored and reported to achieve maximum results.

Adequate and Effective Supervision

Further investigation will be conducted to determine what level of supervision occurred and needs to occur to ensure that workers can not engage in such behavior in the future based on reasonable

expectations and again, rigorous monitoring of productivity measures that could only be completed with full-time performance. For example, contact logs, service plan updates, and case conferences with other team members. Based on the further investigation, additional discipline may be recommended.

The report reinforces my commitment to the critical importance of directing this Department through qualified personnel and outcome measures.

If you have any additional questions, please call me or your staff may contact Helen Berberian, Board Relations Section at (213) 351-5530.

DS:JEO:vm

Confidential Attachment

C: Chief Administrative Officer (cover memo only)
Auditor-Controller
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors (cover memo only)
County Counsel